

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 04519 092243Z

73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06

SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FEA-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 INRE-00 /154 W
----- 060445

O R 092228Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1684

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 4519

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EC

SUBJ: DAMAGE TO TEXACO-GULF PIPELINE

REF: QUITO 4508

1. I SPOKE AFTERNOON JULY 9 TO MIKE A. MARTINEZ, GENERAL MANAGER, TEXACO PETROLEUM CO., ABOUT THE DAMAGE TO THE PIPELINE REPORTED REFTEL. HE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION AS "FAIRLY BAD". SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID THAT:

A. THERE WERE SOME 15 LANDSLIDES ALONG THE PIPELINE ITSELF.

B. THE PIPELINE HAS A BREAK IN IT AT APPROXIMATELY KM 164 WEST OF LAGO AGRIA, WHERE THE LINE HAS BEEN DISPLACED 75 METERS FROM THE ROAD AND PUSHED INTO THE RIVER. HE EXPECTS TO HAVE TO REPLACE ABOUT 800 FEET OF PIPE IN THAT AREA ALONE.

C. FIVE BRIDGES ARE OUT, THREE SMALL (15 TO 20 METER) BRIDGES, ONE BRIDGE ACROSS THE COCO RIVER AT CANON DE LOS MONOS, AND THE MAIN BRIDGE SOUTH OF THE PRODUCING AREA IN LAGO

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AGRIA WHICH CARRIED THE 26" LATERAL PIPELINE BRINGING IN

CRUDE FROM THE SOUTHERN FIELDS.

D. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO ACCURATE INFORMATION ON HUMAN LOSSES, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT NINE PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES. OTHERS ARE STRANDED, BUT THE ECUADOREAN ARMY HAS BEEN ASSISTING IN EVACUATING SOME OF THEM BY HELICOPTER.

E. REPAIR OPERATIONS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY. OTHER OIL COMPANIES IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN AIDING IN SETTING UP FERRIES ACROSS THE RIVERS TO SUPPLY OPERATIONS, PIPELINE EXPERTS ARE COMING FROM THE STATES, AND A BRIDGE EXPERT HAS ALREADY ARRIVED FROM COLOMBIA TO ASSIST IN RECONSTRUCTING THE BRIDGES.

2. ALTHOUGH MARTINEZ DOES NOT EXPECT TO HAVE FIRM ESTIMATES ON EITHER THE TIME OR COST INVOLVED IN REPAIRING THE DAMAGE UNTIL THE END OF THIS WEEK, HE BELIEVES THAT IT WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST A MONTH.

3. I HOPE TO ARRANGE FOR MISSION OFFICERS TO OVERFLY DAMAGE AREA TOMORROW TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005